



## **MEDIA RELEASE – INFORMATION**

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jennifer Michaluk, M.Ed, CHES, Public Information Officer

St. Clair County Health Department

(810) 987-5300 x 1414

[jmichaluk@stclaircounty.org](mailto:jmichaluk@stclaircounty.org)

### **Health Department Encouraging Residents to Stay Safe This Halloween**

The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is encouraging residents to review guidance from the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#) on how to safely celebrate Halloween during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Halloween is an enjoyable holiday for many people and often a popular time for gathering” said Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer of the St. Clair County Health Department, “however, we must not let our guard down against COVID-19. With significant spike in new county cases, and the SCCHD having to reprioritize contact tracing and disease investigation efforts, it is holiday weekends like these where disease transmission can increase. The positive news is there are activities that residents can do to reduce their risk.”

For those looking to participate in activities outside your home or with people not in your immediate household remember:

- If you are sick, stay home and avoid handing out candy
- Maintain social distancing of at least six feet or more
- Wear a cloth mask covering both the mouth and nose;
  - A costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask
- Wash hands often or frequently use hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol
- Give out treats outdoors if possible; avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters
- Set up a station of individually bagged treats for kids to take
- Avoid indoor gatherings with people outside of your immediate household
- Avoid congregating in groups around houses

General questions can be directed to the St. Clair County COVID-19 Informational Hotline (810) 966-4163 or email [covid19@stclaircounty.org](mailto:covid19@stclaircounty.org). COVID-19 information is also available on the health department website [www.scchealth.co](http://www.scchealth.co) or follow us on social media @scchdmi.

**##END##**

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**St. Clair County Emergency Operations Center & Joint Information Center**  
295 Airport Drive, Kimball, MI 48074

Phone: (810) 989-6392 | Fax: (810) 364-4603 | E-mail: [publicrelation@stclaircounty.org](mailto:publicrelation@stclaircounty.org)

# Celebrate Halloween Safely

**Ideas on how to celebrate Halloween safely to reduce your risk of infection from Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

- Carve or decorate pumpkins with members of your household and display them
- Decorate your house, apartment, or living space
- Plan an indoor/outdoor Halloween candy hunt for for your family
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Watch a favorite scary movie on television and have your favorite snack
- Have a bonfire with your family and roast hot dogs, make s'mores and tell scary stories
- Make homemade candy and enjoy with your household
- Make homemade costumes and see who can come up with the best costume
- Use chalk to decorate you driveway with Halloween drawings
- Plan Halloween themed arts and crafts for you familiy to do together